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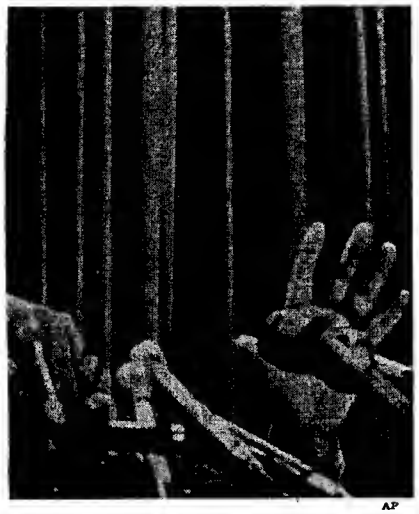
INVESTIGATIONS:

The 'Invisible Government'

When all the votes were counted, even the insiders were surprised. By a lopsided 45-to-7 tally, members of the Senate's Democratic caucus voted last week to form a Watergate-style select committee to investigate the CIA. In so doing, the caucus reclaimed oversight authority from some senior members who have long functioned as sympathetic watchdogs to the nation's secret services. Said Idaho's Democratic Sen. Frank Church: "What happened today was a kind of revolution."

It was a curious revolution. Suddenly, the shadow world of intelligence was fair game for scrutiny; questions about the CIA's domestic snooping had widened into an inquiry into the whole "invisible



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government" of U.S. intelligence agencies. Republican members of the Senate select committee were already named, and Democrats were maneuvering for places on the panel. And in the new atmosphere, nearly any charge had fresh currency. The Washington Post confirmed an oft-repeated story that the FBI was keeping files on congressmen, and the agency's acknowledgment that it had such information was read by many as a confession of wrongdoing.

Views: The six-man Democratic majority of the select committee was to be named this week, but the Republicans already chosen assured a broad range of views. They included conservatives Barry Goldwater of Arizona and John Tower of Texas, liberals Richard Schweiker of Pennsylvania and Charles Mathias of Maryland, and moderate Howard Baker of Tennessee—a collector of CIA domestic secrets ever since he crossed the agency's trail in serving on the Senate Watergate committee.

While the special panel was gearing